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STRATHMORE

TIMES

VOLUME 18 ISSUE 10



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Bronze winners

Page 9



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STRATHMORE TIMES

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Office Hours
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 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Look on Pages 2 & 12 for **Town of Strathmore Municipal Notices**

Contact Us Today!
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Town eyes curbside recycling

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Town of Strathmore is anticipating a shift in local recycling services, looking to phase out the current depot, in favour of a curbside service.

As of April 1, 2025, the town has participated in an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program, intended to put the burden of costs on producers of products rather than on consumers.

Ethan Wilson, manager of infrastructure for the Town of Strathmore, explained administration has been participating in the planning and roll-out of EPR services since late 2023.

“Users likely did not see a change to their services at that time; however, utility rates were able to be reduced, and over \$200,000 in rebates were received in 2025,” he said. “October 2026 is the next change that we expect and this is when curbside recycling will be rolled out to all single-family homes.”

The service, he explained, will be provided by Circular Materials, which is the provincial representative.

Users will be expected to comingle their recycling rather than sort it as they currently do, and the town’s recycle yard will no longer be required following the rollout. The town will continue to collect household hazardous waste, and administration is currently reviewing how to best continue the service.

Though it is not automatic through the single-family program, multi-family residential sites are also able to register for curbside recycling collection. Communications on the program are expected to be distributed as they become available closer to the rollout date this fall.

Continued on Page 4



Reading for life

Nine year old Natalie Huston checks out a book during the 5 for Life annual book sale March 6-7 at the Hope Community Covenant Church. The book sale is a major fundraiser for 5 for Life, which promotes positive early childhood development in Strathmore & Wheatland County. See Page 6 for more coverage.

Joe Lepage Photo

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County to indicate support for Alberta research facility

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Wheatland County council is supporting a letter to the federal government from Lacombe County protesting the closure of the Lacombe Research and Development Centre.

Correspondence to Wheatland County, dated Feb. 24, indicated Lacombe County intends to rally support from municipal districts and counties across Alberta aiming to reverse the decision to close the facility.

“I do certainly see the value in research and development in agriculture, and I think if this were in our municipality, we would be looking for support from our other municipalities,” said Coun. Shannon Laprise.

“You can close research centers in various places, but we do not have many research stations in Alberta dealing with the climates that we have got and the agriculture that we need,” added Coun. Keith Clayton.

The closure of the facility is reported to represent the loss of more than 100 jobs in a small labour market, as well as the loss of student placements and early career opportunities essential to Canada’s agri-food workforce.

Additionally, concerns have been raised regarding the damage to agricultural research and scientific trials which cannot be replicated elsewhere without the loss of data and local infrastructure value.

“I can’t see losing that or editing that and trying to integrate it into wherever else they are planning on moving it. It is a very important place; there has been so

much in the feed barleys and feed oats that come out of there for feed,” said Coun. Glenn Koester.

“Molting is a different side, but feed for our livestock sector is very competitive and most of it for silage ... a lot of those studies, really come from the Lacombe center. I know by far, the barley feeds, the feed for our livestock, is highly dependent on them and to lose it would (set us) back by 50 years. That is our edge in the market.”

The Lacombe Research and Development Centre has been in operation for 119 years, currently described as being a cornerstone of Canadian agricultural innovation and public interest research.

Research through the facility includes integrated crop protection, climate-smart agriculture, livestock and crop genetics, production efficiency, and is Canada’s only federally operated meat sciences program.

“I can support the idea of the letter, but I think that the government has already made their decision and it is not going to change anything,” said Coun. Rick Laurson.

Agriculture and Agri-food Canada have indicated the closure of seven research sites across Canada as part of budget savings identified by the federal government which come amid efforts to reduce the size of the public service.

Despite the closures, the process of which could take up to 12 months. A total of 17 research centres – at least one in each province, will remain in operation.

Olds College has expressed interest in taking up several of the projects which had been underway at the Lacombe facility.



Great performance

The Strathmore United Church played host to the Arts on 817 Concert Series on March 7. The church was full of lively music as the École Brentwood choir performed as the opening act before headliner A cappella group ONCUE took the stage for the evening main set.

Melissa Piche Photos



Notice of Public Hearing.

April 1, 2026 at 7 p.m.

Municipal Development Plan Amending Bylaw No. 25-25 (Amendment No. 2, 60-80)

Please be advised that the Town of Strathmore has received a Municipal Development Plan Amendment application on those lands described as 40 and 60 Wheatland Trail, also referred to as 60 and 80 Wheatland Trail. The legal addresses for the proposed applications are Block 2, Plan 9012129 for the parcel currently containing a residential home, and Lot 1, Block 1, Plan 1910233 for the parcel adjacent to the golf course.

The applications propose a mix of residential and commercial land uses, including R3 High Density Residential District, R2X Medium Density Attached Housing District, and C1 Neighbourhood Commercial District. The applications would allow for future subdivision and development permit applications to be accepted by administration for a variety of housing and non-residential options including apartments, townhomes, duplexes, multi-unit, retail stores, restaurants, professional services, health services, and more.

Public Hearing Process

A copy of the proposed Bylaw may be inspected by the public during regular office hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday at the Town Office (1 Parklane Drive, Strathmore, AB), or can be found on the Town website, Strathmore.ca/PublicHearings Please contact the Town Office if you would like an opportunity to review and provide input on the proposed amendments prior to the Public Hearing.

The Public Hearing will be held via ZOOM AND in Council Chambers, Strathmore Municipal Building, 1 Parklane Drive, Strathmore Alberta on **Wednesday, April 1, 2026**, commencing at 7:00 p.m. with procedures in accordance with the *Municipal Government Act*, Section 199 and the Town of Strathmore Council Procedural Bylaw No. 23-17 and amendments thereto. Any person or group of persons, or person acting on someone’s behalf, who claims to be affected by any of the proposed bylaw may present suggestions or concerns by making a submission to the public hearing. Please contact Legislative Services at LSAdmin@strathmore.ca by **12:00 noon on Wednesday, March 25, 2026**, in order to register to present.

Written submissions to the Public Hearing or the name of any person wishing to make an oral presentation at the Public Hearing must be received by the Planning and Development Department prior to 12:00 noon on Wednesday, March 25, 2026, as outlined in Bylaw No. 23-17 and amendments thereto. If your written submission is not received by this time, please provide fifteen (15) copies for distribution at the Public Hearing. Each person wishing to address Council at the Public Hearing shall complete their verbal presentation within five minutes.

Please note that written submissions will become public documents once submitted to the Town, unless otherwise requested.

Please contact Legislative Services at (403) 934 3133 prior to attending a Public Hearing to determine the order of Bylaw presentations in the Council Agenda to ensure efficient use of your time.

Notice of Public Hearing.

April 1, 2026 at 7:05 p.m.

Land Use Bylaw Amending Bylaw No. 25-26 (60-80 Wheatland Trail)

Please be advised that the Town of Strathmore has received a Land Use Bylaw Amendment application on those lands described as 40 and 60 Wheatland Trail, also referred to as 60 and 80 Wheatland Trail. The legal addresses for the proposed applications are Block 2, Plan 9012129 for the parcel currently containing a residential home, and Lot 1, Block 1, Plan 1910233 for the parcel adjacent to the golf course.

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Library hosting monthly gathering of new local cosplay guild

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Strathmore Municipal Library is highlighting a new monthly program which invites hobbyists of all ages to come out and develop a sense of community.

Now officially running on the last Tuesday of each month, the Cosplay Creators Guild largely invites teens and youth to the program room who are interested in cosplay; however, adults are also welcome.

“The first official meeting was the last Tuesday in February. We wanted to give it a shot and see how things were going before we did more of a hard launch,” explained Laura Henderson, assistant director of the library. “They have been meeting unofficially ... at people’s houses or wherever they could get space, but the facilitator of that had approached me and asked if we could do something a little bit more official.”

The idea for growing the group, Henderson added, was pitched to her as putting an emphasis on story writing, character development, costume and set design.

Literacy-based themes of the program aside, facilitating a growing and regular group of cosplay enthusiasts was becoming increasingly cumbersome attempting to host in people’s homes.

“They had rented the program room in the fall and then approached me following that because they needed more space. It is limiting the number

who can attend in someone’s private home,” she said. “With teens and things like that, you want to be careful where you are sending them. Meeting in a home was not necessarily indicative of growing the group. They wanted to use more of a public space.”

Henderson added library programs typically tend to be considered worth exploring if as few as five people can be anticipated to attend a debut event.

February’s Cosplay Creators Guild meeting attracted 11 people to its first session, with the community anticipated to experience significant growth now that there is a large enough space to host members.

“What I love about it is you don’t have to come and work on a project or even learn about cosplay,” said Henderson. “You can just be interested in it and the world around cosplay, fantasy, science fiction, that sort of thing, if you just want to hang out with people who are interested in the same things.”

The target demographic is largely for teens, however those of any age may come out. For those who are under the age of 12, it is requested that they be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Though the current schedule is to gather once a month in the program room, Henderson anticipates it growing to twice a month throughout the lifespan of the guild.

More information about the guild is available through the Strathmore Municipal Library.

County bridge infrastructure under evaluation for repair, replacement

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Discussion is ongoing within Wheatland County regarding their Bridge and Culvert Asset Management Plan and how best to proceed with maintenance and replacement efforts.

The county completed their 2025 Master Asset Management Plan in June 2025, a document being the first of its kind that dictates a framework to support infrastructure planning and sustainability.

As part of this, the county has been required to review local bridge and culvert infrastructure. Several previous reports to the county have indicated several structures which are nearing the end of their service lives and are in need of replacement.

“The county’s bridge and bridge culvert inventory has a replacement cost of about \$181.5 million. This is up pretty significantly from the figure we presented last year at \$120 million that our consultants used,” said Konrad Goral, AM and GIS specialist. “The county owns and manages about 72 bridges and 192 bridge-sized culverts – a total of 263 bridge assets. This is an updated number ... it is actually down from last year. We came up with some figures that were unmaintained by the county.”

Approximately 82 per cent of the county’s bridge and culvert asset inventory was determined to be in fair or better condition. However, the remaining inventory, representing \$32.5 million in assets, will need to be replaced in the immediate

to short term.

A risk analysis of the bridge asset portfolio revealed that 43 per cent of the county’s bridges fall into a “very high” risk category, though this is largely due to if a failure occurs, it would have major consequences to the local transportation network.

“Some of the elements and components of those structures may be candidates for replacement or rehabilitation in the medium term and should be monitored for further degradation,” said Goral.

He added the county’s assets with a poor or worse rating are not necessarily unsafe for use and may remain available for use for the time being.

Based on the current reports, it is projected that the county should anticipate an annual capital expenditure of approximately \$8.8 million over the next decade.

Over the next five years, \$47.6 million is projected for major bridge and culvert replacements required of the immediate term.

The following five years are projected for \$40.9 million in expenditures for lower priority projects.

A total of \$9.8 million had been budgeted in 2025 for bridge infrastructure, and \$8.6 million was annotated for 2026. These are targeted toward 24 projects, largely being to replace structures constructed around 1966.

The county accepted the report presented during the March 3 meeting as information, aiming to solidify any decisions during later council meetings.

Thinking about Ways to Recycle?
We are too

The process in recycling takes a newspaper full circle, right back to newsprint ready to be printed again.

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Alberta Weekly Newspapers Association – recognizing the efforts of community newspapers

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Blockchain-based entity
- 4. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
- 7. Painted with glue
- 12. Legendary crooner
- 15. Structure made with strips of wood
- 16. Tropical fruits
- 18. Commercial
- 19. Comedienne Gasteyer
- 20. The Ocean State
- 21. Ancient Scot
- 24. Basics
- 27. Stated propositions
- 30. Scottish island group
- 31. Expression of annoyance
- 33. Large tree
- 34. Engine additive
- 35. Conspiracy
- 37. Drunkard
- 39. Someone who is morally reprehensible
- 41. Ancient Syrian city
- 42. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
- 44. Carry (slang)
- 47. Sweet potato
- 48. European river
- 49. The Golden State
- 50. Windy City ballplayer
- 52. New Testament
- 53. Possess spiritually
- 56. A treeless grassy plain
- 61. Popular historical novel
- 63. In a law-abiding way
- 64. A place to sleep
- 65. Criticize

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Impression in a surface
- 2. Computer language
- 3. Relating to the ear
- 4. Occupant
- 5. Member of Great Plains people
- 6. Social media firm
- 7. Digital audiotape
- 8. Midway between east and southeast
- 9. Chronic, progressive disease
- 10. Chinese lute
- 11. Not wet
- 12. Moves wings up and down
- 13. Communication devices
- 14. Swiss river
- 17. Female sibling
- 22. Receive
- 23. Relating to a type
- 24. General’s assistant (abbr.)
- 25. Steep bank
- 26. Taxi driver
- 28. Moves into without difficulty
- 29. Bicycle manufacturer
- 32. Traditional rhythmic pattern
- 36. Fugitives are on it
- 38. Bitter-tasting organic substance
- 40. Die
- 43. Matched
- 44. Literary genre ___-fi
- 45. Cannot
- 46. Pounded
- 51. British rock group
- 54. Debt relief order
- 55. 2006 NL Cy Young winner
- 56. Green vegetable
- 57. Tough outer skin of fruit
- 58. ___ Spumante (Italian wine)
- 59. Ailments
- 60. Famed singer Charles
- 62. Camper

STRATHMORE TIMES

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The Times welcomes letters to the editor for publication. All submissions must be signed and a phone number included for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, legal considerations and taste. Please try and keep your letters under 400 words to ensure that it will appear as close to its original form as possible.

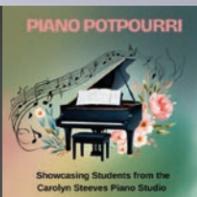
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7 pm



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Distraction thefts on the rise

ALBERTA RCMP

Within one month, RCMP received five similar reports in one community where victims were approached in business parking lots in by unknown suspects using various distraction techniques in an attempt to steal items.

RCMP is highlighting these thefts to the public in an effort to bring awareness to some of the tactics used by thieves and some safety tips.

Common tactics:

- Victim is approached, often in a parking lot or flagged down by a seemingly stranded motorist.
- Scammers claim they need money for food, gas, or airfare to get home, and offer fake gold or jewellery for exchange.
- Scammers may try to sell fake jewellery or electronics.
- Victims are sometimes accompanied by the scammer to a bank ATM to withdraw cash or to a store to purchase gift cards.

• In some cases, it's been reported that the scammers use distraction techniques to remove real jewellery from a victim and replace it with fake jewellery.

• The scammer often cites hardship, such as the recent death of a family member, or referencing sad-looking children in their vehicles in order to solicit a sympathetic response from victims. This can include reference to religion or prayer.

• In most cases, the scammers are driving rental vehicles with out-of-province licence plates from Quebec, Ontario, or B.C.

How to stay safe:

- Remain vigilant at all times
- Secure your valuables.
- Be cautious of strangers in your personal space or attempting to hug or touch you.
- Trust your instincts and don't be afraid to say no or yell for help if you feel uncomfortable.
- Walk away from any suspicious person or behaviour.

If you or someone you know has been impacted by a distraction theft, or any other crime, please contact your local RCMP department. If you wish to remain anonymous,

you can contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), online at www.P3Tips.com or by using the "P3 Tips" app available through the Apple App or Google Play Store. To report crime online, or for access to RCMP news and information, download the Alberta RCMP app through Apple or Google Play.

Police search for vandals

ALBERTA RCMP

Strathmore RCMP are investigating multiple cases of vandalism to vehicles on Ranch Ridge Meadow in Strathmore. RCMP is requesting residents who live in the area of Ranch Ridge Meadow to check any surveillance footage they may have between 11 p.m. on March 5 to 6 a.m. on March 6.

If footage is identified which may help identify suspects in these cases, please visit rcmp.ca.evidence.com/axon/community-request/public/2026296252 and follow the prompts on the link to upload the video for our investigators to review.

Town to see shift in recycling services

Continued from Page 1

Details of recycling bin delivery are anticipated this summer, with collection schedules to be established as similar to ongoing garbage and organics collection.

"The transition will also allow administration to review the frequency of garbage and organic collections; however, that is unlikely to change for one to two years as we understand the change in volumes for each of those," said Wilson.

Circular Materials will be responsible for hiring the company which will be conducting curbside collections in Strathmore. The town has not yet been informed which contractor this will be.

Regarding future council decisions on the matter, once the future of household hazardous waste collections is determined, administration will be able to calculate required levies and utility costs to be proposed for the 2027 utility rate bylaw.

Because recycling services and collections will not be operated by the town, questions or concerns from residents will have to go through whichever contractor wins the bid to service the town.

Questions regarding garbage and organics collection will continue to go through the town as normal.

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Thought for the Week
~
Maybe great opportunities to help others seldom come, however, small ones surround us daily.

SUDOKU

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Worship Service: 11 AM
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325 1 Ave • 403-934-3543
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Associate Pastor: John Duerksen
Youth Pastor: Ian Scantland
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322 A 2nd Avenue, Strathmore
403-714-2283 www.rccgstrathmore.com
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Sunday Worship: 10:30 am
Wednesdays Bible Study: 7 pm
Youth Fridays: 7:30 pm
Last Friday of every Month - Hour of Dominion: 10 pm

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YOUR WEEKLY HEALTH ADVICE
 Gord Morck Pharmacist
Capsule Comments

There has been a fourfold increase in adult syphilis rates in Canada over the past 15 years and a threefold increase in the disease in newborns. This sexually-transmitted disease is usually more common in high-risk patients with multiple partners and active substance abuse. Using condoms during high-risk sexual activity will help prevent syphilis transmission.

With the increasing popularity of pickle ball, emergency departments are seeing more eye injuries, particularly in players over the age of 50. Although eye protection isn't mandated for casual or professional play, it's a good idea to wear some form of eye protection.

Clinical trials are currently being done on a new drug earmarked for intractable cancer pain. The results so far, show the drug, *resiniferatoxin*, is a safe and effect agent for pain control in patients with difficult to manage cancer pain. This drug is non-addictive and doesn't cause a high. Larger clinical trials will be continued with the hope the drug will be approved by health protection agencies in the near future.

Are you taking a thyroid tablet, like *levothyroxine*? As many as one in 10 Canadians has some type of thyroid condition, usually an underactive thyroid gland. Ideally, the thyroid pill should be taken on an empty stomach with water at the same time each day. Acidity in the stomach is suspected to increase absorption while low acidity may decrease absorption. Best advice? Take your thyroid pill at least 30 minutes before breakfast.

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Hawks win bronze

The Holy Cross Collegiate Hawks senior girls basketball team finished their league playoff run on a high note, capturing the bronze medal with a commanding 70-34 victory over the NDC Wolves on March 7. The girls will now prepare for zones this weekend in Three Hills where they will compete against top teams from across the region for a chance to advance to provincials.

Joe Lepage Photos

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Book sale success

5 for Life hosted its annual book sale at Hope Community Covenant Church on March 6-7, with a wide selection of gently used books, including children's titles, adult fiction and non-fiction, and audiobooks. Organizers collected book donations from community members in the weeks leading up to the sale, building an extensive inventory for visitors to explore. Proceeds from the fundraiser will go toward supporting early childhood programs in the Strathmore area.

Joe Lepage Photos

WHEATLAND COUNTY

Upcoming Meetings

Council and committee meetings will now be open to the public and via teleconference. For public hearings it is strongly encouraged that you attend in person.

March 26, 2026, 9:00 a.m. | Committee of the Whole

April 7, 2026, 9:00 a.m. | Council Meeting

April 8, 2026, 9:00 a.m. | ASB Meeting

For call-in details, access links, and agenda packages, please visit our website.
<https://wheatlandcounty.ca/agendasandminutes/>

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Join Division 4 Councillor Keith Clayton for Coffee & Conversation - a relaxed, come-and-go event to enjoy a cup of coffee, connect with your Councillor, and chat about the issues that matter most in your community.

26 MARCH

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Cheadle Hall
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Wheatland County's 2026 Budget Engagement Survey is now open.

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Former Standard residents recall Olympic competition

MELISSA PICHE
Times Contributor

When two former residents from Standard boarded planes bound for Japan in 1972, they carried more than sleds and racing suits.

They carried the pride of a small prairie village and a dream that had taken shape thousands of miles from home at the 1972 Winter Olympics in Sapporo.

In 1965, Poul Nielsen went to the University of Montana. He recalls a buddy at the university remarked to him, “You’re from Canada. I’ll bet you’re good on toboggans and sleds.” He told me to join the luge club. For some strange reason, Missoula had the only luge track in North America at that time,” said Nielsen.

What started as a casual suggestion soon turned into something much bigger. After competing in North American championships in Lake Placid, N.Y., Nielsen was invited to the Canadian championships and eventually to Europe for training.

“It soon became evident that if we really wanted to be competitive, we had to go to Europe,” he said.

Back home in Standard, he approached his friend Doug Hansen with the idea of having him come along to train.

“He asked me if I wasn’t doing anything, would I come along,” Hansen said with a laugh. “I said, ‘Oh sure, why not?’”

Their first experience on a European track was a bit of a shock.

“I scared myself so bad I wanted to quit,” Hansen said, “I have lots of bruises to show for it.”

The tracks in Germany were among the fastest and most technical in the world. Runs regularly hit speeds between 130-140 km/hr.

“Those first runs were so fast,” Nielsen said. “It was just overwhelming.”

At the time, Canada’s luge program lagged far behind European powerhouses such as Germany, Austria and Italy.

“We were pretty much in awe at the capabilities they had compared to what we had developed,” said Hansen. “In 1972 we were still wearing cloth racing suits. Cloth is very slow compared to plastic racing suits.”

Despite the gap in resources, the Canadian team adapted quickly.

“The Germans were amazed at how fast we were adapting to it,” Nielsen said. “We’d all grown up on ice. I had a feeling for ice just like Doug did too.”

They even managed to bring a little innovation of their own to the sport. In doubles competition, the pair developed a new way of launching from the start house.

“We rigged up a start method where I, on the back of the sled, was helping Murray to launch the sled out of the start hack,” Hansen explained. “The Italian coach saw us doing it. The next race, the Italians had the same method. And the next race after that all the nations had it.”

When the call finally came that all four Canadian luge athletes had qualified for Japan, the moment hardly felt real.

Arriving at the Olympics was overwhelming to say the least.

“It’s amazing at first because the spectacle is amazing,” Hansen said. “Being part of the opening ceremonies is such an honour.”

Once competition began, however, the focus narrowed quickly.

“During the luge event, you don’t have much on your mind other than the luge itself,” Hansen said staying focused is imperative. After the luge event was over however, the two got to experience all the Olympics had to offer including interacting with other athletes.

“The great thing about the Olympics to me is that people do their best and whoever wins you salute them and you shake their hand and it’s so much better than the way things are being solved right now,” said Nielsen with pride. Both men said the Olympics is a very

classy event.

Wearing the maple leaf remains one of the defining moments of their lives.

“It’s a very great honour to represent your country like Canada,” Hansen said. “There’s a real sense of personal pride and satisfaction. We’re there not just for ourselves but for our country.”

When Hansen watches the sport in present day, he notes the differences from when they competed.

Both athletes say the experience shaped their lives in ways they couldn’t have imagined at the time. Hansen said

for himself it was important for him to, “focus on the personal accomplishment during the Olympics rather than getting caught up in the spectacle of the Olympics, and of course national pride.”

“It gives you a sense of inner confidence – it doesn’t matter if anyone really knows what you did but you know that you achieved that,” said Nielsen. “You think, ‘If I could do that, heck, I could do anything.’”

While both now live in Medicine Hat, neither will forget their Standard roots and their Olympic dream.

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Town to review fire services dispatch model

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Town of Strathmore council has voted for a review and a report to be developed by administration of local fire dispatch services.

"It is basically a motion just to review fire dispatch services and then bring a report. It does not necessarily mean that I am going to vote to change fire dispatch services," said Mayor Pat Fule during the March 4 meeting of council. "I think we owe it to our residents to at least hear from administration, see the review, see the report, have the discussion and debate, and then make our decision as a council."

The notice of motion was brought forward by Coun. Melissa Langmaid after having made her intentions known about the motion during a previous meeting.

Her motion included that the report from administration is to include alternative options and/or opportunities for fire dispatch services for the Town of Strathmore and other regional partners for council's consideration.

"The intention of this motion is to ensure that the town's fire dispatch services meets the needs of our fire department and our residents. This motion does not propose specific changes to fire dispatch services," said Langmaid. "Instead, it directs administration to undertake a review of our current service model, explore alternative options, and identify opportunities for council's consideration."

Coun. Richard Wegener opposed the motion, citing concerns from citizens regarding potential changes to ambulance services which could result from making alterations to the current system or cutting ties with the Wheatland and District Emergency Medical Services Association (WADEMMSA).

"Should we go the route of changing? Should WADEMMSA fold, (which) their concern is, will the ambulance service see changes? Probably not; WADEMMSA is only fire dispatch," he said. "What WADEMMSA does is, if there is an ambulance call,

they transfer it to AHS. (They) will also stay on the line and camp out and listen to the call, then they will, if necessary, dispatch the fire department to provide pre-ambulance medical service."

He added pre-ambulance medical services often arrive ahead of paramedics, and without WADEMMSA, alternative dispatch protocols may result in longer response times to emergencies, be it fire or medical.

Coun. Brent Wiley echoed Fule's sentiments, citing council's responsibility to review service delivery and make what they believe to be the best decision for

local residents, regardless of whether that means changing service providers after a 30-year long relationship.

Ultimately, the notice of motion was passed by council in a vote of 6-1 in favour. An exact date on when the report from administration will be brought before council was not determined at the time of the meeting.

... this motion is to ensure that the town's fire dispatch services meets the needs of our fire department and our residents.

Coun. Melissa Langmaid

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Library to celebrate Francophonie culture for third year

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Francophonie culture is being celebrated at the Strathmore Municipal Library later this month, partnering with the Canadian Parents for French (CPF) and Calgary Catholic Immigration Society (CCIS) for the third year running.

“It is the first year that we are sort of officially hosting from the library in partnership with them, so we have just taken a little bit more of an active role in the program, but in the end it will be hosted by the CPF,” said Laura Henderson, assistant director of the library. “It is going to be an afternoon of French food, a story time with a local French author, Melanie Lawson, and then a little jellybean dance just to keep the fun going.”

The event is in celebration of the French speaking community. The group of parents involved are part of the local chapter of the CPF – many of whom are parents of students engaged in French immersion education.

Henderson added the group has approached her with several opportunities to feature French language and culture through the library, including a book club type of program.

This particular event, taking place March 21, she explained is akin to a party celebrating the French speaking community.

“They are trying to make it an annual thing ... they just like to have a consistent date that they are doing the celebration (for) the French speaking community, as well as bring attention to the French immersion program at Brentwood,” said Henderson. “International Francophonie Day is March 20, which is why they like to ruin it at mid-March, around that time.”

Francophonie Day, notably, is a unique celebration, separate from Bonhomme de Carnaval, which is a winter celebration that takes place in February.

Because the carnival is celebrated through Brentwood, Henderson explained the library wanted to do something different in celebrating Francophonie Day.

“They (the CPF) have had a lot of growth, to the point that it is a small committee, and they needed an actual physical space to host these activities, and we are sort of a natural relationship there,” she said. “We had some space and some resources; I love hosting authors in general, so having a local French speaking author is extra exciting. It was a very natural partnership.”

Registration for the event is encouraged such that the library will be able to anticipate the number of attendees, however anyone is welcome to drop in should they be interested.



Wranglers edged out

The Wheatland Wranglers U11A females hockey team suffered a 3-2 overtime defeat versus the Okotoks Oilers on March 7 in Game 1 of their series at the Strathmore Family Centre. After beating Cochrane in the first round, the Wranglers put up a valiant effort against the division leading Oilers in the second round, falling 3-2 in both games of a close series.

Joe Lepage Photos



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CHANTELLE DE JONGE
Chestermere-Strathmore MLA

Alberta's government is taking positive steps to ensure families, workers, and communities have the resources they need to thrive. We recently released Budget 2026, which focuses on what matters most to Albertans, including strengthening hospitals, building schools, supporting key industries, and continuing to grow our economy. These are practical and results-driven investments that respond to Alberta's growth and rising demand for critical services while keeping the province financially strong.

Healthcare remains a top priority for our government. We recently announced a historic \$13.8 billion investment to strengthen acute care across the province. This funding will ensure expanded hospital-based services and shorter wait times for surgeries, cancer care, emergency services, and diagnostics. A three-year \$1.4 billion capital plan will support hospital maintenance, upgrades, and equipment, including diagnostic imaging and emergency health services fleet enhancements. This investment will deliver 50,000 additional surgeries over the next three years and helps ensure Albertans receive high-quality care when they need it most.

Education is another critical focus for Alberta's government. Budget 2026 funds 16 school projects in smaller cities and rural communities, creating or renovating more than 9,800 student spaces and bringing the total number of rural projects underway to 79. Budget 2026 is also supporting 14 new school projects in Calgary and six across Edmonton, Cochrane, and Airdrie, creating over 17,500 new student spaces that our province needs most. This means that there are now 161 active school projects across Alberta, which is helping to relieve classroom pressures caused by rapid population growth that has added about 80,000 students in just three years. Combined with the province's generational \$8.6 billion Schools

Now program, these investments provide modern learning environments, support thousands of construction jobs, and ensure every child has access to high-quality education close to home.

Our constituency is seeing exciting progress on several new school projects designed to meet the needs of our growing communities. In Chestermere, three new schools are moving ahead: a public K-9 school, a Catholic K-9 school, and a new public high school. In Strathmore, the much needed replacement of Westmount School (K-9) is now underway. These investments build on the recent opening of Rocky View Schools' Horseshoe Crossing High School in Langdon last year.

Alberta is also moving to secure its future in global markets through a new incentive program targeting the critical minerals sector. With a focus on lithium, iron, vanadium, rare earth elements, and more, our government aims to attract investment, support job creation, and strengthen energy and supply chain security. The program, launching in 2027, is part of the province's Mineral Strategy and Action Plan and supports a broader Western Canadian Critical Minerals Strategy, positioning Alberta and Western Canada as a North American hub for responsible mineral development and processing, with potential for thousands of jobs and billions in economic activity.

These investments – across health care, education, and the economy – are designed to support the people and communities that make Alberta the best place to live, work, and raise a family. By planning ahead and responding to the province's growth, your government is providing the services and opportunities that will help Albertans succeed well into the future.

As always, please feel free to reach out to my office with your feedback and questions (Chestermere.Strathmore@assembly.ab.ca).

(Chantelle de Jonge is the MLA for Chestermere-Strathmore and the Parliamentary Secretary for Affordability and Utilities)

TIMES CLASSIFIEDS

Obituary

SCOTT, Wayne Douglas

Wayne Douglas Scott was born in Ontario on September 2, 1951 and died in the Strathmore, Alberta Hospital November 25, 2025 after a strenuous battle with cancer. Wayne was adopted into the Scott family of parents Elizabeth and Ralph with children William, Lila and Mary when he was 4 years old. Living first in Trenton, Ontario on the Airforce Base where Ralph was a jet pilot and later at the Lincoln Park Airforce Base in Calgary.

Wayne married Willi (Wilhelmina) (nee Van Overdyk) (now deceased - 2017) and had 2 children Trevor (of Calgary) and Karen (of Kelowna). Wayne was predeceased by his father and mother from Calgary (Ralph - 2005, Elizabeth - 2015), and nephew from Ottawa (David Scott - 2018).

Wayne drove long distance trucks throughout Western Canada as well as into the United States for decades and regaled friends and family with narratives arising from various 'outstanding or memorable' trips. Wayne leaves behind wife Dawn MacIntyre-Scott.

Wayne was deeply loved by family and friends and will be remembered for his love of animals and nature. Wayne also had a strong interest in photography taking many beautiful pictures over the years. Wayne made friends easily and loyalty came from deep within him. He will be sorely missed.

MEMORIAM

C.J. Callaway Feb. 19, 1937 - Feb. 23, 2014

It's been 12 years since we said goodbye. Your still missed, you'll always be in our hearts.

Love Lou, Cheryl, Shane & Michelle, Randy. Grandchildren - Matthew, Sheldon & Erica, Daniel & Sammi, Micheal, Jenni & Jordan

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Are you looking to pursue a career in print journalism?
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 • Open to Alberta students heading into their minimum second year of a post-secondary program relating to journalism
 • Essay must convey the important role of quality community journalism plays in our modern world
CA MacLean Bursary Foundation Alberta Weekly Newspapers Association



Upcoming Council Meetings

March 11, 2026 | 6 p.m.
 March 18, 2026 | 6 p.m.
 April 1, 2026 | 6 p.m.

Committee of the Whole
 Regular Meeting of Council
 Regular Meeting of Council

Come Say Hi

Hearing from the community is really important to us, so you're welcome at any Council or Committee of the Whole meeting. You do not need to call ahead or register to observe Strathmore Council in action. There is ample public seating and additional standing room if needed. You can also watch livestreamed meetings online as they happen, or catch up later on YouTube.

Notices coming out in February. Property assessment notices.

On February 18, 2026, more than 6,400 annual property assessment notices were mailed out, signaling the start of the 2025 Customer Inquiry Period, which wraps up in April.

The Customer Inquiry Period is an important time for property owners to check, compare, and review their assessment for accuracy, fairness, and equity.

When you receive your notice, there's a few things you should do.

- Review the details on your assessment notice.
- Check what makes up your property's assessment value and compare it with similar properties in your neighbourhood using our property search function, found at Strathmore.ca/Assessment
- Contact the Town's assessor, Wildrose Assessment Services, for one-on-one support by calling 403-343-3357. Their property assessment experts can answer most assessment related questions with no formal complaint fees required. To help address concerns, please have your latest assessment notice in front of you with the account number and validation group information ready.
- If you disagree with your property's assessment, you can file a formal appeal with the Assessment Review Board by the deadline stated on your latest property assessment notice. You can find information on this process at Strathmore.ca/Assessment

Join our team. Career opportunities available.

Are you looking for a rewarding career in a vibrant community? The Town of Strathmore is hiring! We have a variety of positions available across different departments.

- Contract Group Fitness Instructor
- Lead Facility Operator (Arena)
- RCMP Detachment Municipal Employee Supervisor

Check out Strathmore.ca/Careers for more information about current opportunities and discover your bright future with the Town of Strathmore.

Strathmore Motor Products Sports Centre. School Closure Camps.

Got a day off school coming up? We've got a plan. The Strathmore Motor Products Sports Centre offers day camps and seasonal break camps designed to keep your kids busy and having fun.

Registration is available through PerfectMind. Be sure to visit Strathmore.ca/SchoolClosureCamps to register and ensure all required forms are completed.

If you have questions or concerns, give us a call at **403-361-2121**.

Course ID	Dates	Days	Time	Cost
39662	Mar 13, 2026	F	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	\$47.50
39677	Apr 24, 2026	F	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	\$47.50
39679	May 1, 2026	F	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	\$47.50
41349	May 15, 2026	F	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	\$47.50

Spring Break Camp

Course ID	Dates	Days	Time	Cost
39676	Apr 7 - 10, 2026	T - F	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	\$148

Bored? We can fix that. Join a board.

Boards and committees have always played an important role in our community. If you're looking for a way to make an impact, this is your chance to get involved. The Town is currently accepting applications for the following boards or committees.

- Assessment Review Board - 1 position open.
- Family and Community Support Services Advisory Board - 2 positions open.

For questions about Volunteer Boards and Committees, please email LSAdmin@strathmore.ca or call **403-934-3133**.

Good food, great food. Get the Good Food Box.

The Good Food Box is a non-profit organization offering access to quality produce while ensuring variety, freshness and affordability.

The Good Food Box is brought to you by your community and is accessible for everyone regardless of income level. For more information, visit Strathmore.ca/GoodFoodBox

Please save water.

It really makes a difference.

Stage 4 Water Restrictions.

The City of Calgary has enacted Stage 4 Water Restrictions due to a water main break and have asked surrounding communities to do so as well. Effective March 9, 2026, the Town of Strathmore has also implemented Stage 4 Water Restrictions. These restrictions mean:

- No outdoor water use (e.g., flooding outdoor ice surfaces)
- Indoor facilities such as pools, rinks, and recreation facilities will remain open

Please consider taking the following steps to reduce water consumption:

- Limit showers to under 3 minutes
- Flush toilets only when necessary
- Run dishwashers and laundry only when full

As we navigate Stage 4 Water Restrictions, our water system operator, EPCOR, is proactively topping our reservoirs to ensure we have adequate water reserves to support essential services and maintain system stability. While EPCOR manages operations behind the scenes, our community's continued efforts to conserve water remain critical. Reduced demand helps keep reservoir levels strong and supports system reliability until Calgary's system is fully restored.

For more information on Stage 4 Water Restrictions, please visit: Strathmore.ca/WaterRestrictions

Register today!
Summer Camps.

We've got some fun and safe alternatives to boredom for ages 4 to 12 with our summer camps! Check out the themes of each week and register your child for their favourite theme, or register in all the weeks for a fun-filled summer!

*Please note that time and pricing may vary depending on your child's age.

For more information, visit our website Strathmore.ca/Recreation. For registration, you can register for camps through your PerfectMind account. Got questions? Give us a call at **403-361-2121**.



Theme	Date	Time	Cost
Water Fun	June 29 to 3, 2026	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	\$ 148.00
Splash and Play (Swim Lessons)	July 6 to 10, 2026	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	\$ 245.00
Sport and Explore	July 13 to 17, 2026	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	\$ 185.00
Multi-Sport Adventure	July 20 to 24, 2026	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	\$ 185.00
Splash and Dash (Swim Lessons)	July 27 to 31, 2026	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	\$ 245.00
Neon Days	August 4 to 7, 2026	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	\$ 148.00
Balls and More	August 10 to 14, 2026	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	\$ 185.00
Olympic Days	August 17 to 21, 2026	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	\$ 185.00
Let's Celebrate	August 24 to 28, 2026	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	\$ 148.00